

Meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Mr. Rogacki at 9:30A.M., at the Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Room 2, in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

Roll call for attendance: Kim Simac, Erv Teichmiller, Mark Rogacki, Mary Kim Black and Vernon Wiggenhauser were in attendance.

Others present: Jason Hilger, Martha Milanowski, Deb Bohn, Paul Tirpe, Joe Fath, Ken Anderson, Tom Nitz, Jean Nitz, Kris Duening, Ken Anderson, Eric Swanson, Barb Gibson, Larry Mathein, John Gagnon, Dale Mayo, Ron DeBruyne, Kris Stark, Joy Schmitz, Carolyn Ritter, Duke Stepp, Rocky Caffarella and Cindy Burzinski.

Motion made by Mr. Teichmiller to approve the agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Seconded by Ms. Black. All voting aye. Carried.

Motion made by Mr. Wiggenhauser to approve the previous minutes from September 17, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Teichmiller. Discussion-none. All voting aye. Carried. Motion made by Mr. Teichmiller to approved the minutes from October 3, 2014. Seconded by Mr. Wiggenhauser. Discussion-none. All voting aye. Carried.

Approval of Bills and Payroll –Motion made by Ms. Simac to approve bills and payroll as provided. Seconded by Ms. Black. Discussion- The process of approving bills was discussed on it was decided by consensus that a report of vouchers by supervisors be presented for approval rather than signing the individual vouchers, as this process will be more efficient and achieve the same results. Ms. Duening was directed to provide any information each month she is aware of with any concern over any items reported on any vouchers included on this list. All voting aye. Carried.

Implementing the Medical Examiner Position in Vilas County/Abolish Coroner Position – Ordinance to County Board - Mr. Tirpe addressed the board and provided an updated budget for 2015 with a net cost to the levy of \$75,750. Mr. Mathein also provided additional information regarding his services and the statistics used to draft their target number and further indicated his new proposal would likely be less if based on the case load recently provided by Mr. Tirpe. Motion made by Ms. Simac to approve this ordinance to implement the Medical Examiner position in Vilas County/Abolish Coroner Position and forward it to the County Board. Seconded by Mr. Rogacki. Discussion-none. Voting aye – Ms. Simac, Ms. Black, and Mr. Rogacki. Voting nay – Mr. Teichmiller, Mr. Wiggenhauser. Carried.

Approval of Tower Lease Renewal with Heartland Communications and Transfer of Money from General Fund – Resolution to County Board - Ms. Milanowski indicated the county has been unable to successfully renegotiate the lease terms with Heartland Communications. Heartland Communications has increased the lease from \$1,000 per year to \$24,000 per year and has demanded this large increase be paid by December 1st rather than postpone the payment until 2015. Motion made by Ms. Black to approve this resolution and forward it to the County Board. Seconded by Mr. Wiggenhauser. Discussion-none. All voting aye. Carried.

2015 Budget and Authorization for 2014 Property Tax Levy – Resolution to County Board – Motion made by Ms. Black to approve this resolution and forward it to the County Board. Seconded by Ms. Simac. Discussion: Mr. Hilger indicated that lines 4-7 could likely be amended at the County Board meeting on October 28th. All voting aye. Carried.

2015 Budget – Mr. Hilger provided the budget working document that was the result of the 10/3/14 Finance and Budget Committee meeting. He indicated this preliminary budget could be discussed; however, the budget as presented is what was published for the public hearing on October 28th and must not be amended until the October 28th County Board meeting. Mr. Stark, the UW-Extension Agent and Economic Development Coordinator, presented data and asked the Finance Committee to consider supporting an amendment to the budget to allow \$1,000 to be budgeted in line item 100.33.55632.0320. He indicated he does not have money in the UW-Extension budget to cover these training expenditures. Mr. Stepp from Civil Air Patrol appeared before the committee to ask for the reinstatement of \$2,500 in account #100.01.52502.0364. Mr. Stepp indicated that the Civil Air Patrol provided 120 search and rescues in the past year and can reach out to the entire County for new

recruits. Recommendation was provided to Mr. Stepp to appear before the County Board on October 28th to ask for reinstatement of funding. Mr. Swanson, the Vilas County Juvenile Intake Director, appeared to ask for support of the entire \$16,875 for the Restorative Justice program. Sheriff Fath and Mr. Burkett presented information today regarding the sheriff and jail budgets. Concern was expressed over budget reductions made to the following sheriff accounts: medical account, range supplies account, and conventions, dues and meetings. Concern was also expressed over budget reductions made to the following jail accounts: medical, prisoner meals, supplies, training, electronic monitoring, kitchen supplies and body armor. Mr. Teichmiller indicated that the sheriff and jail budgets equate to an estimated \$9 million which equates to approximately 1/3 of the total County budget and it seems that some budget reductions should be considered. Mr. Burkett indicated he would like to avoid amendments to the budget at the upcoming County Board meeting, if possible, and would appreciate support from the Finance Committee with contingency funds if needed in 2015. Ms. Burzinski presented her tourism budget and indicated the contract amount with Pilch and Barnett is \$21,600 and the remaining amounts in the promo line can be used at her discretion for marketing. Mr. Teichmiller asked Ms. Burzinski if she would be willing to reduce this budget to be equivalent to the 2014 amount allowed. Ms. Burzinski indicated that she would appreciate a 2015 budget amount at least equal to the 2014 amount plus the \$3,000 her department earned by selling tourism ads this year. Mr. Gagnon presented his state forest aid budget and indicated he will discuss the option of foregoing the timber loan program and the timber planting for \$20,000 with his committee and may bring a budget amendment forth concerning this. Ms. Black commented that the Commission on Aging Committee is willing to try operate its services with the reductions imposed by the Finance & Budget Committee but also reserves the right to discuss the use of the contingency account with the Finance Committee if needed.

Finance Report – The September finance report was presented. Cash and investments are reported as \$14.1 million and unassigned fund balance of \$9.2 million which is tracking about \$500,000 less than last year.

Line Item Transfers – None noted.

Out of County/State Travel – None noted.

Letters and Communications – Mr. Rogacki provided a letter from Human Resources Manager Deb Bohn regarding the Wipfli wage study. The letter provides a brief description of the wage study and concludes by indicating the wage contingency account could be reduced in the 2015 budget from \$250,000 to \$150,000. Mr. Hilger presented a letter from the owner of a vacant lot south of the courthouse. This lot could be developed into parking to eliminate congestion on city streets. It was the consensus of the committee to direct Mr. Hilger to forward that letter to the Public Property Committee.

Future meeting dates – Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11th at 9:30 a.m. to discuss the budget.

There is nothing more on the agenda therefore; the meeting is adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

Minutes reflect the recorders notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.

Submitted by: Jason Hilger